

**Committee on Undergraduate Admissions
Annual Report to the Riverside Division
November 30, 2021**

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions (UAC) met 10 times during the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Riverside Division of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Committee was represented on the Systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) by Sheldon Tan, Chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. BOARS held 10 meetings during the 2020-2021 academic year. Chair Tan updated Committee members at each meeting on the issues discussed at the UC System-level. In addition, Chair Tan represented the Committee on Executive Council and served as an ex officio member of the Committee on Preparatory Education.

The Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions Emily Engelschall updated the Committee at each meeting on the Fall 2021 Freshmen admissions cycle and Winter 2021 Winter 2022 transfer admissions cycles and other issues of note from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Scott Heil provided the Committee with information about models for tracking admissions and provided consultation at meetings when data was reviewed.

Actions undertaken by the Committee during the academic year were the following:

- The Committee proposed an Amendment to the approved proposed dual-AIS score admission policy. The Committee voted in favor of adopting the test-blind AIS score for the 2022 admission cycle in lieu of the approved proposed test-inclusive and test-blind AIS options. As noted in the original proposal, the Regents unanimously approved the suspension of the standardized test requirement (ACT/SAT) for all California freshman applicants until fall 2024, and also outlined a plan for phasing out the ACT and SAT tests entirely and possibly replacing them with a new standardized test format.

The primary rationale for this amendment to the previously approved proposed dual-AIS score admission policy is due to pending litigation and the unavailability of testing centers in California. As a result, the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions believes it's in the best interest for UCR and the 2022 applicant pool to adopt the test blind AIS score for the 2022 admission cycle so that Undergraduate Admissions can communicate a clear and consistent 2022 undergraduate admissions testing and comprehensive review policy to students as soon as possible.

- The Committee reviewed the Report of the Academic Council Teaching Evaluation Task Force and generally support the report and had the following comments:

The Teaching Evaluation Task Force recommends a number of common sense and logical actions that would improve both the process of evaluating instruction and the actual instruction received by undergraduates at UCR. Foremost, recommendation number five seems particularly critical. The teaching evaluation should not be based only on student evaluation of teaching (SET) scores, which is currently the only evaluation evidence used at UCR. As mentioned in the report, SET can be unreliable, biased and can't measure important aspects such as curricular alignment and instructor's content expertise. Further, UCR must adhere to the UCOP requirement, APM 210-1D, indicating that multiple forms of evaluation must be used for merit and promotion.

Incorporating peer observation and reflective teaching statements as a common practice would significantly improve learning outcomes and provide a more balanced process for evaluation. However, the committee also notes that this will create more work for the faculty.

To remain competitive as an undergraduate institution, UCR must foster innovative and effective teaching practices and be a leader in deploying inclusive and responsible pedagogy. A more robust instructor evaluation system will help keep UCR at the forefront of undergraduate instruction. The current system appears to result in significant bias, particularly toward women and people of color as noted in the report and the recommendations two and three, and this needs to be addressed in a manner that does not stifle creative and innovative instructional practices.

The purpose of instructor evaluation should also be to encourage new and productive methodologies, and to that end, the committee notes that a more nuanced approach to the evaluation system should focus on helping instructors improve and refine their pedagogy is welcome. Evaluations should not be used exclusively to stifle or reprimand instruction, but rather to foster its development so that our undergraduates receive the best possible experience.

- The Committee reviewed the Proposal: Classification of Instructional Programs Process and did not have any concerns with the revision as it relates to their charge of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal for a BS/MS Joint Five-Year Combined Degree Program in Statistics and are supportive of the revisions.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal for a BA/MPP Joint Five-Year Combined Degree Program in Public Policy and are supportive of the revisions.
- The Committee proposed a set of changes to section I. Minimum Academic Requirements of the Admissions by Exception (AxE) Guidelines in response to UCR making the decision to implement a test-free admission policy for the 2021 admission cycle and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Committee reviewed and supported the proposed changes to Undergraduate Major's Admissions requirements for the following programs:
 1. Business Administration
 2. BS/MS in Mechanical Engineering program change
 3. Data Science Major program change
 4. Entomology Major Transfer Admission Program Change
 5. Plant Biology Major program change
- The Committee reviewed and supported the proposed combined Entomology B.S. + Entomology M.S. Program.
- The Committee reviewed the Proposal: 2020-21 Curtailment Program and did not have any concerns as it relates to their charge of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed the Regents Scholarship Criteria and are supportive of using the recently approved Academic Index Score to offer Regents Scholarships starting with the Fall 2021 incoming freshmen class.
- The Committee reviewed the Committee on Faculty Welfare Campus Climate Survey Report and discussed the concerns reported by the report and generally agree that most of the concerns

regarding the shared governing between faculty and administration, the equity issues, and the unfair treatment of faculty of color are valid and should be addressed by the campus.

- The Committee reviewed and supported the proposal for a BS/MS Joint Five-Year Combined Degree Program in Microbiology.
- The Committee reviewed the President's Job Protection Program and did not note any concern relating to their charge of Undergraduate Admissions and had no further comments.
- The Committee reviewed the Campus Safety Task Force Report. In the purview of the committee, the committee considers it is important to have a safe environment for all the students so that they can attend school and graduate safely. At the same time, the committee thinks that inequitable policing is also a major concern for students.

Some members think the report is a good start to address the campus safety issues including the renaming of "Campus Police" to "Campus Safety", the need for more training for police officers (police brutality is both cultural and institutional), more training on how to deal with mental health issues and the integration of safety activity with campus programs.

The question was raised as to whether or not we are safe without police and the answers were split among members. Some members pointed out that we still need the police for protection from outside criminal activities and see the vital needs for police on campus. While other members expressed their concerns for the report and believe the UCR administration has not taken the student demands seriously, especially the safety concerns of African American students. Another member supports the complete de-funding and disbanding of the UCR police department and is in favor of shifting the funding for police to other areas.

- The Committee reviewed the Draft Strategic Plan and did not have any concerns as it relates to their charge of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed and supported the Proposal Policy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-9) Vaccination Program. The committee acknowledges that this policy is critical for many faculty to be willing to return to predominantly in person instruction in the Fall. The committee feels it will facilitate a return to normal instruction which could conceivably positively impact the willingness of students to attend and even apply in the future.

The committee requested clarification on the following:

1) Vaccine Declination: The proposal states: "Individuals who are not vaccinated and do not have an approved Exception or Medical Exemption documented on a Declination Form will not be cleared to access University Facilities or Programs in person." Does this mean that remote learning will be provided for these individuals? Are there alternatives like deferred enrollment for freshman and transfer students if they fall under this category? There will be declinations (not just among students, but among some faculty as well) and this issue will arise.

2) In multiple spots, including the Policy Summary, the document refers to a person receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as a requirement for, in effect, full participation in university activities. Perhaps this should be strengthened to require the person to be "fully vaccinated." This term is clearly defined by the CDC, and basically means two weeks following the full sequence of doses (1 or 2) of the vaccine that is administered.

3) The verbiage on disabilities is confusing and perhaps misleading. On page 10, it seems to refer to a specific disability---being immunocompromised. Surely this is a medical exemption, though the disability service offices might play a supportive role should that exemption be challenged. But on page 3, the wording is so terse that it seems to imply that any disability is automatically a medical exemption. Perhaps the "; or disability" on page 3 should just be dropped but keep the verbiage on page 10.

- The Committee reviewed the proposal for the new undergraduate major in Robotics Engineering and were generally supportive of the proposal. The committee had the following questions/suggestions:
 - 1) The committee suggested the transfer admission requirements (major preparation) be more explicit for new students transferring into the major from a CCC.
 - 2) What is the minimum GPA for transfer students?
 - 3) How are students selected into the program?
- The Committee reviewed and supported the Pre-Proposal: Department of Black Study. UCR prides itself on its diversity and inclusion. While applications by and admissions of black students are generally increasing, the enrollment of black students has decreased. Having a Department of Black Study will likely improve our prospect of recruiting, enrolling, and retaining black students at UCR. One Committee member abstained from the vote and one committee member did not support the proposal.
- The Committee reviewed and supported the Proposal: Renewal of Partnership Agreement between UCR & RUSD regarding Riverside STEM Academy (RSA).

The committee asked for clarification on the effective date. Page 1 of the document states, "This Agreement, effective Thursday, July 30, 2021, is made by and between The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the University of California, Riverside campus (hereinafter referred to as "University"), and Riverside Unified School District (hereinafter referred to as "District"), on behalf of its Riverside STEM Academy (hereinafter referred to as "RSA"); collectively the Parties."

However, further down on page 1 of the document under Terms and Conditions, the effective date begins July 1, 2020.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. TERM. The term of this Agreement shall be from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2025.

- The Committee continued discussions throughout the year on a potential holistic review model of admissions for UCR.

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